AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 15, 21, 24, 28, and 29, such that the status of the claims is as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method of guest-selected recording of television programs in an entertainment system having a head end and a plurality of guest terminals connected by a distribution system, the method comprising:

transmitting, from the head end to a guest terminal, a schedule [[of]] containing both (a) television programs available for viewing and (b) recording and previously recorded television programs available for time-shifted viewing;

transmitting, from the guest terminal to the head end, program recording selection data representing a program selected by a guest for recording;

creating a digital file representing the program selected;

storing the digital file;

updating the schedule of television programs to include the program corresponding to the digital file;

transmitting the schedule as updated to the guest terminal;

transmitting, from the guest terminal to the head end, data requesting playback of the program selected for recording based upon a selection of that program from the schedule as updated;

playing back the program selected based upon the digital file representing the program selected; and

transmitting the program being played back to the guest terminal.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein creating a digital file comprises:

tuning to a channel on which the program selected is carried; and

encoding the program into a digital format to create the digital file.

3. (Original)   The method of claim 1 and further comprising:

   creating a recording schedule based upon program recording selection data received.

4. (Original)   The method of claim 3 wherein creating a digital file is based upon the recording schedule.

5. (Original)   The method of claim 1 and further comprising:

   associating with the digital file an identification of the guest terminal that provided the

   program recording selection data.

6. (Original)   The method of claim 1 wherein the schedule of television programs is an interactive

program guide.

7. (Original)   The method of claim 6 wherein the program recording selection data is produced based

upon a selection made on the interactive program guide.

8. (Currently amended) A method of guest-selected recording of television programs in an entertainment

system having a head end and a plurality of guest terminals connected by a distribution system, the method

comprising:

   transmitting, to a guest terminal, a program schedule [[for]] containing both (a) available

      scheduled television programming and (b) previously recorded programs available

      for time-shifted viewing;

   receiving, from the guest terminal, program selection data representing a scheduled

      program selected for recording;

   digitally storing the program selected when it is broadcast;

   updating the program schedule to include the program selected as one of the previously

      recorded programs;

receiving, from the guest terminal playback request data based on the previously recorded

programs contained in the program schedule;

converting, in response to the playback request data, the digitally stored program to

television signals; and

transmitting the television signals to the guest terminal.

9. (Original)   The method of claim 8 wherein digitally storing the program file comprises:

tuning to a channel on which the program selected is carried; and

encoding the program into a digital format to create a digital file.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 and further comprising:

associating with the digital file an identification of the guest terminal that provided the

program recording selection data.

11. (Original) The method of claim 8 and further comprising:

creating a recording schedule based upon program recording selection data received.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein digitally storing the program is based upon the recording
schedule.

13. (Previously amended) The method of claim 8 wherein the program schedule is an interactive program
guide.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the program selection data is produced based upon a
selection made on the interactive program guide.

15. (Currently amended) An entertainment system comprising:

      a plurality of guest terminals;

      a distribution system connected to the guest terminals;

      a digital content server for storing entertainment content in digital files and supplying to the distribution system television signals based upon the digital files;

      a receiver for receiving television programs on a plurality of channels and supplying the programs to the distribution system;

      an encoder for converting a selected television program on one of the channels to digital file representing the selected program and transferring the digital file to the digital content server for storage; and

      a computer which communicates with the guest terminals over the distribution system, the computer providing the guest terminals with a schedule listing both (a) the television programs available for viewing and recording and (b) previously recorded programs available for time-shifted viewing, controlling operation of the encoder based upon a selection by a guest of a program to be recorded and controlling operation of the digital content server based upon a selection by a guest of a previously recorded program[[s]] for time-shifted viewing.

16. (Original)   The entertainment system of claim 15 wherein the encoder is an array including a plurality of tuners for tuning to the channels and an encoding device connected to each tuner.

17. (Original)   The entertainment system of claim 15 wherein the computer provides information about the television programs in the form of an interactive program guide.

18. (Original)   The entertainment system of claim 17, wherein the interactive program guide includes information about previously recorded television programs.

19. (Original) The entertainment system of claim 15 wherein, in response to a request from a guest terminal, the computer causes the digital content server to supply television signals based upon the digital file representing the selected program.

20. (Original) The entertainment system of claim 15 wherein the computer creates a recording schedule for the encoder based upon data from the guest terminals representing selections by guests of programs to be recorded.

21. (Currently amended) A method of providing guest-selected viewing of time-shifted television programs in an entertainment system having a head end and a plurality of guest terminals connected by a distribution system, the method comprising:

> tuning to channels on which scheduled television programs selected for time shifting are carried;
>
> encoding the programs selected into a digital format to create digital files representing the programs;
>
> storing the digital files at the head end;
>
> transmitting, from the head end to the guest terminal, an interactive schedule listing both (a) scheduled television programs available for viewing and (b) previously recorded television programs available for time-shifted viewing based upon the digital files stored;
>
> transmitting, from the guest terminal to the head end, data requesting playback of one of the time-shifted programs displayed;
>
> playing back the time-shifted program requested based upon the stored digital file representing that program; and
>
> transmitting the time-shifted program being played back to the guest terminal.

22. (Currently amended) A method of providing time-shifted television programs in an entertainment system having a head end and a plurality of guest terminals connected by a distribution system, the method comprising:

digitally storing television programs, for time-shifted viewing, when they are broadcast;

transmitting, to a guest terminal, a schedule [[of]] containing both (a) scheduled programs available for viewing and recording, and (b) time-shifted television programming based upon television programs digitally stored;

receiving, from the guest terminal, playback request data selecting one of the digitally stored time-shifted television programs;

converting, in response to the playback request data, the selected digitally stored time-shifted television program to television signals; and

transmitting the television signals to the guest terminal.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein digitally storing comprises:

tuning to a channel on which a television program is carried; and

encoding the program into a digital format to create a digital file.

24. (Currently amended) An entertainment system comprising:

a plurality of guest terminals;

a distribution system connected to the guest terminals;

a digital content server for storing entertainment content in digital files and supplying to the distribution system television signals based upon the digital files;

a receiver for receiving television programs on a plurality of channels and supplying the programs to the distribution system;

an encoder for converting to digital files television programs, to be made available for time-

shifted viewing, when those programs are received by the receiver and transferring

the digital files to the digital content server for storage; and

a computer which communicates with the guest terminals over the distribution system, the

computer providing the guest terminals with a schedule listing both (a) scheduled

programs available for viewing and recording and (b) previously recorded

television programs available for time-shifted viewing based upon the digital files

representing the selected television programs.

25. (Original) The entertainment system of claim 24 wherein the encoder is an array including a

plurality of tuners for tuning to the channels and an encoding device connected to each tuner.

26. (Original) The entertainment system of claim 24 wherein, in response to a request from a guest

terminal, the computer causes the digital content server to supply television signals for one of the television

programs available for time-shifted viewing based upon the digital file representing that television program.

27. (Original) The entertainment system of claim 24 wherein the computer creates a recording

schedule for the encoder.

28. (Currently amended) A method of providing guest-selected viewing of time-shifted television programs

in an entertainment system, the method comprising:

creating a recording schedule of television programs to be recorded for time-shifted

viewing;

encoding television programs based upon the recording schedule to create digital files

representing time-shifted television programs;

storing the digital files at a head end;

transmitting, from the head end to a guest terminal, an interactive schedule listing both (a) scheduled programs available for viewing and recording and (b) time-shifted television programs available for viewing based upon the digital files stored;

transmitting, from the guest terminal to the head end, a request to view one of the time-shifted television programs; and

transmitting, from the head end to the guest terminal, the time-shifted television program requested based upon the digital file representing that time-shifted television program.

29. (Currently amended) An entertainment system comprising:

a plurality of guest terminals;

a distribution system connected to the guest terminals;

a digital content server for storing entertainment content in digital files and supplying to the distribution system television signals based upon the digital files, the digital files including a first group of files representing motion pictures and a second group of files representing recorded television programs available for time-shifted viewings; and

a computer which communicates with the guest terminals over the distribution system, the computer providing the guest terminals with a combined schedule (a) listing scheduled programs available for viewing and recording, (b) listing the motion pictures in the first group of files available for viewing, and (c) listing the television programs in the second group of files available for time-shifted viewing, and controlling operation of the digital content server to provide motion pictures and time-shifted television programs to guest terminals based upon signals from the guest terminals.